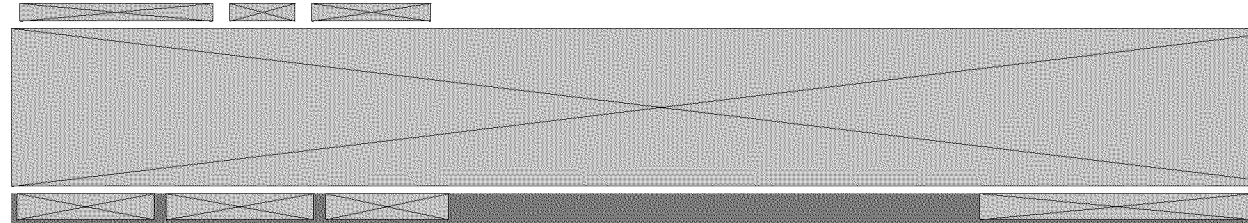


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NEWS

Agriculture

[Farm, Ranch Groups Back Zinke as Trump's Interior Pick](#)

Farm groups and ranchers are hoping that President-elect Donald Trump's pick for Interior Secretary would loosen environmental and grazing restrictions on federal lands....

Air Pollution

[EPA Moves Ahead With Visibility Program Despite Pruitt's Criticism](#)

The Environmental Protection Agency moved ahead Dec. 15 with revisions to its regional haze regulations, a program that has been the target of litigation and criticism from President-elect Donald Trump's pick to lead the agency. The...

Air Pollution

[Existing Waste Incinerators May See 2018 Emissions Deadline](#)

Existing commercial or industrial facilities with solid waste incinerators in certain states could be required to comply with federal particulate matter and other emissions limits by Feb. 7, 2018, under a recently proposed Environmental...

Air Pollution

[Ozone Region Expansion Decision Coming in 2017](#)

A decision on whether to expand the Ozone Transport Region, a group of states subject to pollution control and planning requirements to limit ozone precursor emissions, will be made by the Environmental Protection Agency in 2017, under a settlement...

Asbestos

[Canada to Ban Manufacture, Use of Asbestos by 2018](#)

Canada will ban the manufacture, use, import and export of asbestos and asbestos-containing products by 2018, the government said Dec. 15....

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Chemicals

EPA Moving Toward Decision on Use of Metal Fluids

The Environmental Protection Agency has moved a step closer to determining whether it will allow the continued use of certain metal working fluids....

Climate Regulation

EPA Makes Last Defense of Carbon Rule Opposed by Trump Nominee

Carbon dioxide limits for newly constructed power plants fall squarely within the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Air Act authority, the agency told a federal court, making arguments President-elect Donald Trump's...

Climate Regulation

How Climate Rules Might Fade Away

In February 2009, a month after Barack Obama took office, two academics sat across from each other in the White House mess hall. Over a club sandwich, Michael Greenstone, a White House economist, and Cass Sunstein, Obama's top regulatory...

Coal Mining

\$1 Billion Coal Cleanup Bill Teed Up for Next Congress

Legislation that would provide \$1 billion to clean up old coal mines will likely be introduced in both the House and Senate in 2017....

Emissions Trading

EU Lawmakers Back Carbon Permit Surplus Cuts

The European Union's emissions trading system would be recalibrated to more quickly reduce the surplus of carbon permits after 2020 under a series of revisions the European Parliament's environment committee endorsed Dec....

Energy

Cantwell Vows to Protect Energy Info Arm From Interference

The Energy Information Administration must remain independent and protected from political interference, Sen. Maria Cantwell, the top Democrat on the Senate Energy Committee, said in a Dec. 15 letter to Vice President-elect Mike Pence....

Energy

FERC Stuck Between Pipelines, Shippers on Tax Allowance Policy

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is stuck between the competing interests of oil and gas pipelines and shippers as it reworks a tax policy....

Energy

Few Things Divide Trump, Obama as Much as Our Energy Future

Few things divide Barack Obama and Donald Trump as cleanly as the future of energy. Sitting right on top of that fault line is the Department of Energy and its advanced research projects agency. ...

Energy

Germany Passes Bill Making Nuclear Cleanup Costs Shared

The lower house of Germany's Parliament gave the go-ahead Dec. 15 for a deal that will resolve long-standing uncertainties over the cost and responsibility-splitting for the long-term storage of nuclear waste and dismantling the...

Energy

India Can Stop Building Coal Power Plants by 2022, Advisers Say

India can meet its burgeoning energy needs after 2022 without building new coal-fired power plants, the government's energy advisory body reported in a surprise announcement that noted an increasing reliance on renewables. ...

Energy

Miner Reborn as a Gas Driller Still Waiting to Split From Coal

For all its talk about quitting coal and becoming a pure natural gas explorer, Consol Energy Inc. still has a majority stake in three Pennsylvania mines to get rid of....

Energy

No OPEC Euphoria for Russia as Trumponomics Adds to Volatile Mix

After finding little cheer in OPEC's agreement to cut production, Russia is bracing for what the age of Trump means for oil....

Energy

South Africa OKs Nuclear-Power Procurement Amid Cost Fears

South Africa is moving ahead with a plan to build nuclear power plants that could raise its electricity generation capacity by a quarter, despite opposition from critics who say it will be too expensive....

Energy

Trump's Top Diplomat Would Carry Chinese Baggage From Exxon Days

President-elect Donald Trump's pick for top U.S. diplomat comes with Chinese geopolitical entanglements. In his favor is years of dealing with some of the country's biggest oil companies....

Energy

U.S. Wants to Pay Quick-Start Power Plants, Speed Grid Hookups

U.S. energy regulators are seeking to shore up the reliability of the nation's power system by making it easier for new generators to connect to the grid and rewarding those that can respond quickly to disruptions....

Environmental Reviews

Florida DOT Gets OK on Environmental Reviews

Transportation officials in Florida expect to save \$22 million and cut projects' environmental review processing time by 25 percent under a memorandum of understanding signed with the Federal Highway Administration....

General Policy

Trump Turns to Hunter, Outdoorsman Zinke to Lead Interior

President-elect Donald Trump has chosen Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-Mont.), who has bucked his party to protect public lands, to lead the Interior Department that oversees recreation, energy development and other activities on roughly 20 percent...

Hazardous Waste

Construction Worker's Toxic Tort Claims Dodge Dismissal

An environmental contractor may be liable for toxic chemical exposure claims brought by another subcontractor at a construction site, a federal court in the District of Columbia ruled....

Hazardous Waste

Mercury Contamination Claims in Virginia to Cost DuPont \$50 Million

The Department of Justice has asked DuPont to pay \$50 million to settle claims for mercury contamination at the company's former synthetic fiber manufacturing plant in Waynesboro, Va., (United States v. E.I. du Pont de Nemours &...

Mining

Brazil Gives Mammoth Amazon Mine an Operating License

Brazilian mining giant Vale S.A. plans to develop a \$6.4 billion open-pit iron ore mine in the Amazon at the start of 2017, a project given an operating license Dec. 9 by IBAMA, the licensing arm of Brazil's Environment Ministry, the agency...

Oil & Gas

House Tax Plan Seen Pitting U.S. Oil Drillers Against Refiners

A proposed change to U.S. taxes on trade could pit oil producers against refiners in the race to higher profits....

Oil & Gas

Interior Caved to Tribal Pressure to Fire Whistleblower

The Interior Department's Bureau of Indian Affairs retaliated against an employee who blew the whistle on irregularities in oil and gas leases on Southern Ute Indian Tribe lands in southwest Colorado, the U.S. Office of Special Counsel...

Oil & Gas

OPEC Threatened by Tiny Oklahoma Town with Soaring Oil Supplies

For OPEC, there are few enemies more fearsome than the tiny Oklahoma town of Cushing....

Pesticides

Canada Proposes Pesticide Labeling Change to Speed Approvals

Proposed amendments to Canada's Pest Control Products Regulations would end the conditional registration of pest control products in response to concerns about excessively lengthy approval periods, the government said....

Pesticides

EPA Accuses Syngenta of Harming Hawaiian Farmworkers

The Environmental Protection Agency is seeking \$4.8 million from pesticide company Syngenta Hawaii LLC for allegedly violating the agency's rules protecting farmworkers. The company's subsidiary in Hawaii failed to notify...

Pesticides

EPA Tightens Restrictions on Weed Killer

Pesticide companies will soon need to include a skull-and-crossbones image and alarming language on a toxic herbicide to ensure that the chemical isn't accidentally ingested. ...

Renewable Energy

Brazil Cancels 2016 Wind, Solar Auction on Weak Power Demand

Brazil is pulling the plug on its only auction this year for wind and solar power, a move that took companies by surprise and threatens to leave turbine plants empty and drag down the country's nascent photovoltaic industry....

Renewable Energy

California Approves a Fraction of PG&E's Car-Charging Plan

California cleared PG&E Corp. to invest \$130 million in electric-car charging stations, less than a fifth of what the company had proposed to spur use of the emissions-free vehicles and combat climate change....

Renewable Energy

Duties Remain on Solar Panels Made from Taiwanese Cells

It was a bright day for U.S. solar manufacturers Dec. 15, as a Federal Circuit appeals panel reaffirmed antidumping duties on solar panels made from Taiwanese solar cells, but assembled in

and exported from Mexico (Kyocera Solar Inc. v. United...

Renewable Energy

Renewables Developers Get IRS Clarifications on Tax Credits

Renewable power facilities can satisfy the IRS's "continuity safe harbor" for claiming the production tax credit by placing a plant in service in 2018 or in a year that is up to four years after the year it started construction,...

Renewable Energy

World Energy Hits a Turning Point: Solar Is Cheaper Than Wind

There's a transformation happening in global energy markets that's worth noting as 2016 comes to an end: Solar power, for the first time, is becoming the cheapest form of new electricity. ...

Water Infrastructure

Trump's Pitch for Water Infrastructure Funds Leaves Groups Cautious

Promises. Promises....

Water Pollution

EPA Requires Dentists to Use Amalgam Separators to Remove Mercury

Dental offices will be required to use dental amalgam separators to capture mercury before such discharges are released to publicly owned wastewater treatments plants under a final pretreatment rule signed Dec. 15. ...

CORRECTION

The Dec. 15 story "DuPont Concerned by EPA New Chemicals Program That Others Back" mischaracterized the parties concerned. Other companies and trade associations in addition to DuPont expressed concerns about EPA's implementation...

Daily Environment Report

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